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THOMAS D. MOTT.

Thomas D. Mott, pioneer and capitalist, died suddenly of heart failure at his residence, No. 810 South Union Avenue, February 19, 1904.

It was in a historic place that Mr. Mott first saw the light of day. He was born July 31, 1829, at Schuylerville, Saratoga County, N. Y., which place was the scene of important incidents in the War of the Revolution. Young Mott began his business career at the age of 14 as clerk in a general merchandise store in his native town. Salaries for boys did not run high there in those days. As compensation for plenty of hard work young Mott received his board and \$25 per year.

His natural aptitude and ambition led him to seek a more inviting field for the exercise of his business abilities and, soon after the beginning of the gold excitement in California, he left his home and came to San Francisco by way of Panama. The journey occupied the greater part of six months and was accompanied by numerous perils and privations.

Soon after his arrival in San Francisco Mr. Mott secured lucrative employment in the mines of the northern counties. With great persistency and rigid economy he secured sufficient capital to embark in a general merchandise business in Stockton, where fortune smiled on him. At the age of 21 he started out with a snug sum of accumulated capital to invade other fields of enterprise.

His attention was directed to the commercial possibilities of establishing a suitable ferry system over the San Joaquin River and in that venture he succeeded to his utmost expectations until in 1852 he disposed of his interests in the northern part of the state, and cast his lot with what was then the pueblo of Los Angeles. Here in Southern California he made his home for more than fifty years.

Mr. Mott was so thoroughly enthusiastic over the future of his new home that he readily invested his capital in real estate here. In after years he reaped a rich harvest on the faith of his good judgment and foresight.

A natural gift of organization and an ambition to master men and affairs led him into politics and for more than a quarter of a century his reputation as a Democratic leader extended throughout the state. He was an intimate personal friend and associate of Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Charles Crocker and William F. Herrin.

In 1863 he was elected first the County Clerk of Los Angeles County and was re-elected for three consecutive terms thereafter. He discharged the manifold duties of his office which at that time embraced the responsibilities of ex-officio Recorder and Auditor with unfailing courtesy and fidelity.

When in 1871 the Southern Pacific Railroad Company first expressed its readiness to build into Southern California provided proper inducements were offered, Mr. Mott was chosen to represent his district in the Legislature. There he soon became a commanding figure and won the regard of his constituency by insuring the construction of the railroad over Tehachepi and through the Soledad Canyon, a route which though very expensive to the railroad company, secured an immense advantage to Los Angeles and probably first brought the southern city into public notice.

In his political undertakings as well as in private business, Mr. Mott was associated with his brother, Stephen H. Mott, the capitalist and former secretary of the Crystal Spring Water Company, and a director in the W. H. Perry Lumber Company. In 1876 he was sent as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in St. Louis, which nominated Samuel J. Tilden for the Presidency. In 1896 when the Democratic party turned to silver, Mr. Mott cast his lot with the Republicans.

Mr. Mott was closely identified with various civic movements inaugurated to build up the resources of Southern California. In 1886 with rare business foresight he erected Mott Market on South Main Street, which was at that time one of the most pretentious and ambitious undertaking in the city. He was also identified with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and other kindred organizations.

Tall of figure and commanding in appearance, Mr. Mott possessed a rare personal charm of manner which endeared him to a host of friends and admirers.

Property interests left by him include the Mott Market, on Main Street, considerable frontage on North Spring Street and local bank stocks and other holdings, valued at over \$200,000.

One brother, Stephen H. Mott, of this city, and one sister, Mrs. Rebecca Lewis, of Schuylerville, N. Y., survive him. Other surviving members of the family are his widow, who was formerly Ascension Sepulveda, a sister of former Superior Judge Sepulveda; one daughter, Mrs. Henry Vander Leck of Nogales, Ariz., and four sons. The sons are Thomas D. Mott, Jr., a prominent attorney of Porto Rico; Stephen D. Mott of Porto

Rico, Y. L. Mott of Nogales, Ariz., and John G. Mott of Los Angeles.

KILIAN MESSER.

In memory of our departed friend and fellow pioneer, Mr. Kilian Messer, we offer the following sketch of his life and of his residence in the city of Los Angeles, in which he lived for 50 years. He was born in Germany, August 25, 1824, where he spent the early years of his life up to 1850, tiring of home he set out to seek his fortune in a foreign county. He sailed for the golden state of California via Cape Horn. In those days it was not an easy journey. He was shipwrecked on the way, but finally reached San Francisco, after being one year on the way. From there he went to the mines, where, after spending a few years, he tired of that kind life. He left for Los Angeles in 1854, and so became one of the early pioneers of our beloved city. Here he engaged in different pursuits of life in all of which he was successful. He was married in October, 1862, to Miss Louise Schmidt and raised two sons who are now engaged in business here, and who enjoy the respect of their fellow citizens. He died December 30, 1904.

LOUIS ROEDER,
AUGUST SCHMIDT,
EMIL PESCHKE,
Committee.

COL. ISAAC ROTHERMEL DUNKELBERGER.

Col. Dunkelberger, who was so widely and favorably known in this community, was born in Northumberland County, Penn., in 1832. He died in Los Angeles, December 5, 1904, at the age of 72 years.

Col. Dunkelberger, who had studied civil engineering and read law in the office of Simon Cameron, was one of the first, if not the first man to enlist in Pennsylvania in the civil war. His regiment, the First Penn. Volunteers, was ordered to Baltimore at the time of the attack on the Massachusetts troops, and while there he received a commission as second lieutenant in the First Dragoons, afterwards the First U. S. Cavalry, the same regiment which distinguished itself in Cuba in the late war between the United States and Spain. Col. Dunkelberger in the